

## Power Lines and Mobile Cranes

**Instructor Note:** This has been added to the Tool Box talks because electric line companies get very upset when a crane (or dump truck bed or other piece of heavy equipment) gets close to or touches a power line. They also will notify Occupational Safety and Health (WISHA). Invariably WISHA will pay your job site a visit looking at everything dealing with employee safety and health.

**Introduction:** It is not uncommon to work around power lines; however, the potential hazards to workers are enormous; workers just have to work safer.

### Guide for Discussion

#### *How to Avoid Electrocution*

- Locate all power supplies. Besides this being the state law, it's smart.
- Have the Power Company inform you of the voltage and arc distances.
- Shut off or insulate the power line(s) if possible.
- Never allow a piece of equipment to break the safety zone (the distance required to avoid electric arc.)

#### *General Rules to Remember*

- Designate a competent lead signal person.
- Communicate clearly with all members of the work crew.
- Have all crewmembers watch the operation.
- Be alert.
- Watch for non-alert crewmembers.

### Additional Discussion Notes:

**Remember:** Whenever you are near a power line, be sure to minimize the risk by de-energizing or insulating the power source. Only then proceed with caution. At all times, try to avoid entering an arc zone. It is far better to be safe than sorry.

### Attendee's:

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact your Employer.